

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A lighting system provided with a light-emitting panel (1) comprising
- a front wall (2), a rear wall (3) situated opposite thereto, and furthermore, between the front and the rear wall (2, 3), a translucent input edge surface (4) for coupling light into the light-emitting panel (1),
 - while at least a light source (6, 6', ...) is associated with the input edge surface (4), and
 - while, in operation, light originating from the light source (6, 6', ...) is incident on the input edge surface (4) and distributes itself in the light-emitting panel (1),
- characterized

in that the rear wall (3) in a first portion (12) of the light-emitting panel (1) is provided with a multiplicity of steps (13, 13', ...), and

in that a second portion (22) of the light-emitting panel (1) widens from the input edge surface (4) in a direction facing the first portion (12)

characterized in that a surface (17) of the steps (13, 13', ...) facing the input edge surface (4) makes an average angle β_{av} with respect to a normal (25) on a bisecting plane (20) bisecting the light-emitting panel (1),

wherein the bisecting plane (20) comprises a bisecting line (21) in the input edge surface (4), said bisecting line (21) being parallel to the front wall (2) and bisecting the input edge surface (4), and

wherein the average angle β_{av} is in the range
 $5 \leq \beta_{av} \leq 25^\circ$.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the surface (17) of the steps (13, 13', ...) facing the input edge surface (4) comprises a specular reflector (31) on a side facing away from the input edge surface (4).

5. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the steps (13, 13', ...) comprise a diffuser (32) on a side facing away from the light-emitting panel (1) while an air gap (33) is maintained between the steps (13, 13', ...) and the diffuser (32).

6. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the height h_{st} of a step (13, 13', ...) is in the range $0.1 \leq h_{st} \leq 0.5$ mm.

7. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the distance d_{st} between two steps (13, 13', ...) is in the range $0.1 \leq d_{st} \leq 10$ mm.

8. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the number of steps (13, 13', ...) is in the range from 25 to 100.

9. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the length l_{fp} of the first portion (12) as compared to the length l_{fw} of the front wall (2) is in the range $0.05 \leq l_{fp}/l_{fw} \leq 0.6$.

10. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of the surface area S_{es} of the input edge surface (4) to the surface area S_{tr} in the light-emitting panel (1) at the transition between the first portion (12) and the second portion (22) of the light-emitting panel (1) satisfies the relation $1 < S_{tr}/S_{es} < 10$.

11. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim 210, characterized in that the ratio is $1.5 < S_{tr}/S_{es} < 4$.

12. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the front wall (2) is provided with a translucent diffuser (8).

13. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the front wall (2) is provided with a light redirecting foil.

14. (previously presented) A lighting system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the light source (6, 6', ...) comprises at least one white LED or at least two light-emitting diodes with different light emission wavelengths.

15. (currently amended) A lighting system as claimed in claim ~~13~~14, characterized in that each of the light-emitting diodes has a luminous flux of at least 5 lm.

16. (previously presented) A display device provided with a lighting system as claimed in claim 1.

17. (currently amended) A display device as claimed in claim ~~15~~16, which display device comprises a liquid crystal display (50).